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Letter dated 8 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the letter from H.E. Felipe Pérez Roque, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, to H.E. Masahiko Koumura, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries (G8), on the occasion of the 34th Summit of the aforesaid group (see annex).

This letter conveys to the presidency of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries and to the rest of the leaders of the G8, the viewpoints and positions of the Non-Aligned Movement on issues of particular relevance and priority to its membership, including those to be raised right at the 34th Summit that is taking place in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan.

I kindly request that the enclosed document be circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 17, 18, 32, 33, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, 62, 64, 69, 70, 71, 85, 86, 87, 98, 99, 100, 104, 108, 116, 121 and 123, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Havana, 1 July 2008

Following the practice established several years ago by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), I address this letter to you in my capacity as Chair of this grouping and on behalf of the 118 countries comprising it. First of all, I wish to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries (G8) and make my best wishes for a successful 34th Summit in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan.

I have the honour to convey to you, and through you to the rest of the leaders of the G8, the viewpoints and positions of NAM on issues of particular relevance and priority for its members, especially those that will be addressed at the 34th G8 Summit. Previous NAM messages to past G8 Summits, along with position papers officially submitted by NAM to the United Nations General Assembly comprise the catalogue of positions of our countries vis-à-vis priority issues on the international agenda.

At the XIV Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Havana, Cuba, in September 2006, the leaders of the non-aligned countries decided to create, expand and deepen more dynamic relations and cooperation with the developed and industrialized countries, particularly with the G-8. The Summit in Havana underscored that such cooperation must be profoundly based on mutual respect and benefits, shared and differentiated responsibility, constructive commitment and dialogue, broad-based partnership and real interdependency, with a view to drafting responses or initiatives on world issues and facilitating greater understanding between the North and the South.

The objective is to ensure that the opinions of the developing countries are fully heeded before the developed countries make decisions on matters affecting the countries of the South and the international community as a whole. It is for these reasons that I address this letter to you, in your capacity as the representative of the country chairing the Group of Eight, in the hope that the views and concerns of NAM are duly taken into account by the leaders of G8 in the Hokkaido Toyako Summit.

We are aware that during the Japanese chair of the G8, your country intends to expand and promote concrete initiatives relative to issues of particular relevance on the international agenda, as the environment and the Cool Earth 50, an initiative by Japan to establish an effective framework beyond 2012, taking into consideration compatibility between environment protection and economic growth; the promotion of efforts by the international community towards achieving the MDGs, focusing on health, water and education; sustainable development of the world economy, investments, trade, strengthening intellectual property, access to raw materials and Africa's economic development; among other issues of great interest and priority for NAM.

In assessing the international situation, the Movement believes that the current world scenario poses great challenges in the fields of peace and security, economic development and social progress, human rights and the rule of law. That underpins the renewal of the

international community's commitment to the ratification and defense of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of International Law.

Among others, these include the ongoing lack of resources and the underdevelopment of most of the world, the lack of cooperation and the coercive and unilateral measures imposed by some developed countries, the excessive influence exerted by the rich countries in determining the nature, direction and rules of international relations, including economic and trading relations, many of which are put in place at the expense of developing countries.

Underdevelopment, poverty, hunger and marginalization have been further aggravated as a result of the ongoing process of globalization, worsening the structural imbalances and the inequities that affect the international economic order. The security and well-being of our nations are confronted with unprecedented challenges.

There is also a great deal of concern about the recent use of unilateralism and the measures imposed on a unilateral basis, which undermine the Charter of the United Nations and International Law. Therefore, the Movement has reiterated its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process under the auspices of the United Nations, with strict adherence to its Charter and to International Law, in order to build a just and equitable world order and world democratic governance, and not one based on the monopoly of a handful of wealthy nations.

To the Movement, its founding principles retain their full validity. There is a need to promote the goal of creating a multipolar world order, based on respect for the application of the principles of International Law and the UN Charter and the reinforcement of multilateralism. To that end, the Movement has set as objectives to defend peace and security and settle all international disputes by peaceful means; to promote and encourage sustainable development through international cooperation and, to that end, jointly coordinate the implementation of political strategies which strengthen and ensure the full participation of all countries, rich and poor, in the international economic relations, under equal conditions and opportunities but with differentiated responsibilities.

As basic principles, it is fundamental to ensure respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States; respect for the equality of rights of States, including the inalienable right of each State to determine freely its political, social, economic and cultural system, without any kind of interference whatsoever from any other State; No State or group of States has the right to intervene either directly or indirectly, whatever the motive, in the internal affairs of any other State; Rejection of unconstitutional change of Governments, Rejection of attempts at regime change and Condemnation of the use of mercenaries in all situations, especially in conflict situations; Refraining by all countries from exerting pressure or coercion on other countries, including resorting to aggression or other acts involving the use of direct or indirect force, and the application and/or promotion of any coercive unilateral measure that goes against International Law.

The global food crisis compounded and reinforced as it is by the global financial crisis, the global energy crisis and the global climate crisis, is a major multi-dimensional challenge for development and the achievement of several of the millennium development goals.

The international community must continue to support the efforts of the developing countries aimed at integrating the principles of sustainable development into their national development strategies. We are pleased that one of the priorities of the German Presidency of the G-8 is the issue of climate change and energy efficiency.

The NAM emphasizes the need to undertake actions and adopt concrete measures at all levels in order to ensure the full implementation of Program 21 and the Johannesburg Implementation Program, in conformity with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities outlined in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development.

It is imperative to honor the commitments entered into at the international level to face environmental deterioration. The most recent scientific testimonies confirm that the future of our planet is threatened and bound to endure serious catastrophes on account of the effects of global climate change. There is no question that the main effect would be on the populations of the developing countries, which lack the necessary physical infrastructure and resources to cope with the impact of those real and increasingly closer dangers.

All States, particularly the industrialized nations, must take the necessary measures to reduce, in the agreed terms, their levels of emissions of greenhouse gases, responsible for the accelerated global warming. The initiatives aimed at transferring the burden of reduction from the developed countries to the developing nations would entail an evasion of international commitments and disregard for the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

Developing countries are being forced to choose between biodiversity protection and the sustainability of their agricultural and by extension, their economic development. What is frequently overlooked is the sober realization that agricultural reform in the majority of developing countries is not profit driven: it is foremost a question of survival. Over the past twelve months, global food prices have soared 40 percent, while food reserves are at 30-year lows. Linkages between biodiversity and climate change, fighting hunger and food production are crucial to achieving both the 2010 target and the MDGs.

We observe as a positive step the decision of the G8 environment ministers at their Kobe meeting, where they adopted, for the first time, a call for action for biodiversity and for making it a key item on the agenda of the upcoming G8 Summit. The Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity includes a road map for achieving the 2010 Target. It is vital that we work in the framework of truthful and genuine international multilateral cooperation, based on the principles of solidarity, complementation and mutual benefits.

On the issue of energy, the NAM highlights the urgency of diversifying the supply of energy by developing advanced technologies that contribute less contamination and are more efficient, accessible and cost-effective, particularly those technologies for the utilization of fossil fuels and renewable energy sources, including hydroelectric energy, transferring them to the developing countries under mutually agreed favorable conditions, including concessionary and preferential ones. Energy policies must underpin the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty. Also, the necessary search for alternative sources of energy must not compromise the fight against worldwide famine.

The Non-Aligned Movement is pleased with the emphasis that the G-8 Summit will put on Africa's economic development. We are concerned that the economic situation in Africa continues to be precarious despite the decisive role played by this continent and the African people in the world economy for centuries.

We recognize that in addressing the special needs of Africa, there must also be direct support for the programs that the African leaders have put in place in the context of the New

Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which embodies the collective determination and commitment of the African governments and peoples to take control of their future development and take on the pressing task of fighting poverty, guiding their countries down the path to sustainable socio-economic development.

In this sense, it is imperative that the international community, particularly the developed countries, increase the allocation of resources for the implementation of projects and programs identified in various sectors, cancel all the debts of the African countries, adopt practical measures for its immediate application and double Africa's development assistance, among other measures. That support is crucial to promote regional integration and development and for the attainment of the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, which are essential for Africa's sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Excellency,

It is also fitting to convey to you the positions and viewpoints of the Non-Aligned Movement on some of the fundamental issues on the international political agenda, to which we are convinced the G-8 also attaches top priority and which most certainly will be examined at the Summit in Hokkaido Toyako or in subsequent meetings during the Japanese Presidency.

The NAM is profoundly concerned about the existing difficult and complex situation in terms of international disarmament and security, and has urged the international community to renew its efforts with a view to ending the current stalemate and achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects.

The Movement has reiterated the threat posed to humanity by the permanent existence of nuclear weapons and its possible use or threat to use them. In this sense, it has highlighted the need for the nuclear States to honour the unequivocal commitment that they entered into in 2000 to work towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The non-aligned countries continue to be profoundly concerned about the existence of strategic defense doctrines that not only bring about justifications to the use or the threat to use nuclear weapons but that also uphold unjustifiable concepts on international security based on the promotion and development of military alliances and policies of nuclear deterrence. They have also reiterated that the improvement of the existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of these weapons by certain nuclear powers violate the commitments entered into by the nuclear States during the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The NAM reiterates its commitment to the successful outcome of the 8th Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010 – and expresses its willingness to work together with the G-8 countries in accomplishing this objective, both at the Review Conference itself and during the preparatory process that started in 2007.

On the related issue of nuclear technology, the NAM reaffirms the fundamental and inalienable right of all States to develop the research, production and utilization of nuclear energy with peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with their respective legal obligations.

The Movement recognizes that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the only authority competent to verify the fulfilment of the obligations entered into under the respective safeguards agreements of the Member States and emphasizes that there must not be any undue pressure or interference in the body's activities that may jeopardize its efficiency and credibility.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the NAM's best wishes for a successful G-8 Summit and the Japanese Presidency, while conveying the Movement's willingness to consider the most viable options to facilitate and increase a fruitful dialogue and exchange between both groupings, enabling developing countries to voice their interests and concerns so that these are taken into account before decisions are made that affect them directly.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity, Excellency, to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Felipe Pérez Roque
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Cuba